

F. THOMPSON, ED

SAFETY 180028-9 W.

BRIEFING

26 July 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR INFORMATION

TO: THE DIRECTOR

VIA: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. Mr. Edward K. Thompson, Managing Editor of LIFE Magazine, is coming over to Col. Grogan's office tomorrow (Friday, 27 July 1962), at 10 a.m., to talk with him, and an Agency expert on the area, about a proposed magazine article by Woodrow Wilson Sayre (grandson of the President, and brother of Dean Sayre of the Washington Cathedral), on Sayre's mountain-climbing expedition and rescue in Nepal. Mr. Thompson called yesterday from New York, and again today from his Washington office, to request a meeting here. He said that he would like to have the Agency's "counsel and guidance", on a non-attribution basis, on certain details of this article, which he has in outline form. The story, he says, will contain details both about Nepal and Communist China. It has been "vaguely represented" to him, he said, that the State Department regards such a story as "against the public interest" and that it might "louse up our relations with the Nepalese". He is checking into State's possible objections, and in addition would like to talk with us.

2. I told Mr. Thompson, (after reporting the above information and request to Mr. Fitzgerald in EE and Mr. Critchfield in NE) that we would not undertake to interpose any blanket objection to such an article per se, but would be glad on a non-attribution basis to look at his text or any particular passages or discuss particular points that might trouble him. Such a discussion he would like, he said. Accordingly, I have arranged with Mr. Critchfield for him to select an expert man of good judgment, in coordination with the DD/I side, to be present for the discussion with Mr. Thompson tomorrow morning.

3. Mr. Thompson expressed his appreciation for this opportunity, and also for a similar briefing that he had requested and received through Colonel Grogan's good offices, last April, on the subject of anti-Portuguese "liberation movements" in Africa.

4. Mr. Thompson also commented in passing, in a friendly facetious way, about the Agency's exceptional "hospitality" with which he was met, last April, by the building guard and the receptionist. The guard tendered him a full-dress salute, he said, and the receptionist told him to "come back again", in a manner that suggested that "I could have been Gromyko himself, for all they knew".


Acting Assistant to the Director

cc: DECI

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